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1961/05/02

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THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

2 MAY 1961

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

Subject: Recommended Courses of Action in Laos

1. Land troops in Thailand and South Vietnam at once.

2. Within 48 hours support FAL forces by protecting key population centers now held by FAL, landing SEATO forces in these areas. (Execute SEATO Plan 5). US forces counter attack if they are attacked but not in such a way as to pose direct threat to North Vietnam or Red China.

3. If cease fire not obtained within ultimatum time, US forces launch air attack against Pathet Lao troops and supplies in Laos, which threaten SEATO protected areas.

4. Escalate immediately when necessary to defeat each enemy action, i.e., if North Vietnam forces strike, we strike North Vietnam; if Red China forces strike, we strike Red China.

ARLEIGH BURKE
Chief of Naval Operations

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By NARA, Date 1/21/97